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Message Text

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NSF/OCE LBROWN (PHONE)
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----------280239Z 005517 /61
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 311406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, IN

SUBJECT: GOI APPROVAL FOR JOINT STUDY OF INDIAN OCEAN CURRENTS IN 1977

1. NSF (NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION) HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY PROF. HENRY STOMMEL OF MIT TO ENLIST EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM GOI FOR SUBJECT PROJECT. THIS PROJECT DEVELOPED AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DR. V. V. R. VARADACHARI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY (NIO), GOA, AND PROF. STOMMEL. OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT IS TO OBTAIN PROFILES OF OCEAN TEMPERATURE ACROSS ARABIAN SEA DURING SPRING 1977. US SCIENTISTS WOULD PROVIDE EXPENDABLE BATHYTHERMOGRAPHS (XBT), LAUNCHERS, AND RECORDERS FOR USE BY NIO SCIENTISTS ABOARD SHIPS OF INDIA SHIPPING CORPORATION (ISC) ON THEIR TRANSITS OF ARABIAN SEA. US SCIENTISTS AND/OR SENIOR TECHNICIAN WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO TRAIN NIO SCIENTISTS WHO WOULD OPERATE EQUIPMENT.
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DATA WOULD BE COMPILED BY NIO STAFF AND TRANSMITTED TO INTERESTED COLLEAGUES IN US AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. VARADACHARI HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN TO PROF. STOMMEL REQUESTING THAT STOMMEL ASK "US EMBASSY TO REQUEST

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CLEARANCE FROM GOI MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN NEW DELHI." PROF. STOMMEL HAS BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION THAT PROJECT HAS ALREADY BEEN INCLUDED IN NIO PLANS FOR 1977 RESEARCH. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS

3. NSF HAS ALREADY PROVIDED FUNDS TO PROF. STOMMEL AND OTHER US SCIENTISTS FOR SERIES OF INDIAN OCEAN STUDIES WHICH INCLUDE ABOVE PROJECT. IF WHATEVER GOI APPROVAL IS NECESSARY COULD BE OBTAINED BY MID-FEBRUARY 1977, SO THAT FIELD PROGRAM COULD BE INITIATED BY LATE APRIL 1977, THEN PROF. STOMMEL WILL CONTINUE WITH PLANNING. IF GOI APPROVAL IS UNLIKELY BY FEBRUARY, THEN FUNDS WOULD BE REDIRECTED TO OTHER PROJECTS WITH NO GUARANTEE THAT SIMILAR PROGRAM COULD BE INITIATED AT LATER DATE.

4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT VARADACHARI DIRECTLY TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF GOI CLEARANCE IN HIS VIEW IS NEEDED. IF VARADACHARI IS NOT AVAILABLE, DR. S. Z. QASIM (DIRECTOR, NIO) MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE NEEDED INFORMATION.
ROBINSON

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